

Car wash

2 tblsp. Mild dish detergent

2 gallons warm water

Wash the car on the lawn or other porous surface, rather than letting rinse water enter a storm drain.

Chrome cleaner

Apply baking soda with a damp sponge.

Rinse well.

Tire cleaner

Combine mild dish detergent and baking soda. Scrub with a brush, rinse well.

Windows, windshields, headlights

Combine 1/4 cup white vinegar or

2 tablespoons lemon juice with

1 quart warm water in a spray bottle

Use as you would any window cleaner.

Degreasers

*Choose citrus-based degreasers over solvent types.

Battery terminals

Baking soda and water paste. After reconnecting the terminals, wipe with petroleum jelly to prevent further corrosion.

Garage floor grease spots

Sprinkle kitty litter or cornmeal on the spot. Allow to sit several hours, sweep up, and dispose of in the garbage.

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District does not make any warranty, expressed or implied, or assume any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any of the suggestions listed above.



*Helping the residents of the Gallatin Valley
protect, preserve and improve our surface
water and ground water resources.*

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Safe Alternatives to Household Hazardous Products



Gallatin Local Water
Quality District

Household Chemicals

Many homes in the Gallatin Valley contain some type of household



chemical product — drain cleaner, motor oil, oven cleaner, weed killer,

and bleach — just to name a few. In an effort to make our lives easier, we often turn to these products when it comes time to do our daily chores.

However, when they are not used up, these household chemicals become household hazardous waste.

Household hazardous waste that is disposed of improperly can contaminate our drinking water supplies.



Recipes for a Cleaner Environment

One way to avoid the disposal problems associated with household chemicals is to use non-hazardous or less-hazardous substitutes whenever possible.

Using some of these alternatives may require more effort and a little more “elbow grease” than their commercial counterparts. Others may not work quite as well or as quickly as the commercial product. But, by using less-hazardous products, you’ll be helping to protect our local environment and save money at the same time!

Glass cleaner

1/4 cup white vinegar
1 quart warm water

Vinyl floor cleaner

1/2 cup vinegar
1 gallon warm water

Tub/Tile cleaner

Use baking soda and scrub with a scrubbing pad. Or, sprinkle baking soda on a wet sponge and add vinegar on top.

Wood floor cleaner

Damp mop with a mild vegetable oil soap.

Toilet bowl cleaner

Sprinkle baking soda into toilet and scrub.

All-purpose cleaner

1 tsp. Liquid soap
1 tsp. Borax
1/4 cup vinegar (or squeeze of lemon)
1 quart warm water

Use for many cleaning jobs like countertops, floors, walls, rugs and upholstery.

Pumice sticks contain no harsh detergents or other chemicals, can be purchased at many hardware stores, and effectively cleans ovens, racks, barbecues and grills, removes rust from toilet bowls, and handles many other tough cleaning jobs.

Carpet cleaners

1 cup borax
2 cups oatmeal
To neutralize odors, sprinkle mixture on carpet, let stand one hour, then vacuum. Baking soda works also.

Furniture polish

Apply olive oil or almond oil and rub in. Allow to stand several hours, then polish with a soft, dry cloth.
*Varnished surfaces don’t need to be oiled. Clean and dust with a damp cloth.